GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1540
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017
Remunerative Prices for Agricultural Produce
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deflation in vegetables and pulses is worrisome as remunerative prices are necessary to sustain farmers interest in growing such crops, if so, the response of the Union Government thereto;

(b) whether the recent dip in prices of vegetables and pulses may dissuade widespread sowing of such crops in the upcoming kharif season, if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether vegetable prices have nearly halved in the vendors market despite robust production taking a toll on the income of the farmers;

(d) if so, whether the wholesale prices of tomatoes, potatoes and onions were lower than the year-ago levels by 44.0 %, 29.7% and 15.0% respectively in May, 2017 and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether besides the above, the wholesale prices of Arhar and Urad declined by 44.1% and 40.1% respectively on a YoY basis in May, 2017; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the preventive measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) to (f): The prices are determined by the market forces of demand and supply, quality of produce and seasonality etc.

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Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the major agricultural produce including pulses to ensure remunerative prices to farmers. MSP fixed by Government for pulses during 2016-17 and 2017-18 are given below:-

(Rs. per quintal)
Commodity 2016-17 2017-18
Arhar 5050^^ 5450^
Moong 5225^^ 5575^
Urad 5000^^ 5400^
Gram 4000^ Not announced
Masur 3950* Not announced
^^ Including bonus of Rs. 425/quintal
^ Including bonus of Rs. 200/quintal
* Including bonus of Rs. 150/quintal

In addition, Government implements the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticultural and perishable agricultural commodities which are not covered under MSP, in order to protect the growers of such commodities from distress sales, on the request of the State Government.

Area coverage under pulses in current kharif season as on 14.07.2017 is 74.61 lakh hectare which is more by 14.33 lakh hectare as compared to same period of last year.

To facilitate remunerative prices for pulses, Government has procured 11.63 lakh MT of Arhar, 2.19 lakh MT of Moong, 0.89 lakh MT of Urad, 0.27 lakh MT of Masur and 0.54 lakh MT of Chana during 2016 and 2017 under price Stabilization Fund (PSF) Scheme. In addition, procurement at MSP was also undertaken under Price Support Scheme (PSS) through which Government procured 1.21 lakh MT of Moong, 1.96 lakh MT of Arhar and 0.15 lakh MT of Urad.

The Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented w.e.f. 2014-15, for holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering all the horticulture crops including vegetables.

Details of MIS implemented for horticulture crops during 2016-17 and 2017-18 at Annexure.

As per Wholesale Price Index (WPI), the prices of vegetables as a group was lower by 18.5% in May, 2017 as compared to May, 2016 and wholesale prices of tomatoes, potatoes and onions were lower by 44.9%,44.4% and 12.9% respectively. Similarly, wholesale prices of arhar and urad declined by 43.9% and 36.9% respectively in May, 2017.